

## **Progress noted on freeway; city finances still troubled**

**Phoenix citizens: Please see the attached Arizona Republic story on Loop 202 progress that could save taxpayers millions and a column I wrote detailing what Phoenix must do to achieve fiscal sanity besides taking more of your money. If you would like me to speak to your neighborhood or civic group to elaborate on any of these, please contact my office at 602-262-7491 or [council.district.6@phoenix.gov](mailto:council.district.6@phoenix.gov).**

It looks like all of the work to get the state and feds to consider alternatives to South Mountain Loop 202 besides blasting through neighborhoods and mountain preserves is bearing fruit.

About a year ago, just about everyone considered it inevitable that the western leg of Loop 202 would take out hundreds of Ahwatukee homes and businesses along Pecos Road, blast through pristine ridges in the South Mountain Preserve and deliver us an expensive, environmentally unfriendly freeway that could not be expanded – ever.

I assembled a group of Ahwatukee neighborhood and business leaders who began pushing for alternatives. We pointed out that the Gila River Indian Community, which was being assailed as uncooperative, had not even been presented a proposal. More neighbors, federal officials, GRIC and others joined the discussion.

Now, as the story below describes, alternatives are being considered with about a half-dozen wins – an alignment across part of GRIC could cost as much as \$200 million less, freeing up money for other transportation needs; South Mountain could remain intact and so would established neighborhoods; places of religious consequence to Native Americans would be preserved; commuters would have another route through the Valley besides downtown Phoenix; and economic development could be advanced on the reservation.

That's no small list.

The big caveat here is that none of this is assured. The parties are working together, which is excellent, but many problems remain to be resolved.

See the story below, plus my attached column in the *Arizona Republic* that details the city's fiscal woes and a four-point plan to fix them.

Thank you,

Sal DiCiccio

***New South Mountain freeway proposals backed in Ahwatukee***

***by Cathryn Creno***

*The Arizona Republic*

*Officials who back the idea of moving the planned route of Loop 202 between Chandler and Laveen to Gila River Indian Community land applauded news this week that a team of experts found two potential freeway routes on the reservation.*

*"It's very good to see that ADOT's efforts to work with the Gila River Indian Community is bearing fruit," U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell, D-Tempe, said.*

*Said Phoenix City Councilman Sal DiCiccio: "I give a lot of credit to GRIC and ADOT for getting this far, but I think there is still a long way to go." FULL STORY:*

*<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2010/07/30/20100730south-mountain-freeway-new-proposals.htm>*

## **Four point plan to fix Phoenix finances**

*Phoenix has raised taxes and fees \$100 million in the past seven months while reducing services – meanwhile compensating is 14,000-plus employees an average \$100,000 a year. Here's a better way to run this city: FULL STORY:*

*[http://phoenix.gov/webcms/groups/internet/@inter/@pcc/@dist6/documents/web\\_content/046384.pdf](http://phoenix.gov/webcms/groups/internet/@inter/@pcc/@dist6/documents/web_content/046384.pdf)*

**If you would like Councilman DiCiccio to speak to your neighborhood or civic group to elaborate on these issues or others, please contact 602-262-7491 or [council.district.6@phoenix.gov](mailto:council.district.6@phoenix.gov). Also, if you would like to receive updates and a newsletter about events and news in your neighborhood and Phoenix, please send your email address to [council.district.6@phoenix.gov](mailto:council.district.6@phoenix.gov).**

**Also see [www.ChangeAZ.com](http://www.ChangeAZ.com) for news and opinion articles about these issues and more.**